



Alumni involvement increases in new strategic plan

By JOY MIEDEMA (88) ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT
AND TIM WOLFERT (87) ALUMNI AFFAIRS

After an intensive, year-long process, Redeemer College has published its Strategic Plan for the years 1998-2001. Entitled "Renewing the Vision," this document provides direction for the development and advancement of the college as it enters the new millennium. This is a significant document in many respects, including how it relates to the role that alumni play in the future.

The Strategic Plan is a response to the rapidly changing environment that Redeemer finds itself in. Although the Lord has blessed the college so far, Redeemer wants to be prepared to continue to serve Him in the dynamic field of higher education well into the next century. A committee guided the work, which included focus group discussions and surveying the college's various communities. The committee also solicited input from a variety of outside groups, including representatives from a number of media outlets and from prospective students. As Alumni Board President, Joy Miedema represented alumni on the Strategic Planning Committee.

The result of this process is a document that:

1. Identifies the mission of Redeemer College;

2. Examines the environmental forces affecting the college; and

3. Articulates strategies to enable the college to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

There are references to alumni involvement throughout the Strategic Plan as it relates to a variety of opportunities and strategies. What may be the most telling section of the increased importance of alumni at the college is under the

"Focus and Outreach Opportunities" section:

"To expand our capacity, beginning in 1998, to assist and encourage alumni to maintain and strengthen their connection with the college, with commensurate supporting resources by 2001-02, when we will be celebrating 20 years of Redeemer's existence."

The Strategic Plan is a "big picture" overview of the college's direction. The next step is to flesh out that framework. There are a number of opportunities that are identified within the Plan, and the college's administration, under the guidance of the Board of Governors, and with input from the various sections of the Redeemer community, will create specific action plans to implement them.

This has been an exciting and rewarding process for Joy. She has enjoyed working with many other parts of the college community and

Continued on page 2...



Copies of the Strategic Plan are available for any interested alumni. To request your copy, please contact the Alumni Office.

Celebrating Alumni -- Homecoming 98

Plan now to join fellow alumni for a day of fun and fellowship on **Saturday, September 19, for Homecoming 98**. This annual reunion of former students is a chance to catch up on what fellow alumni are doing. Come for part or all of the day--there is a variety of different activities planned for alumni and their families.

The tentative schedule of events includes:

- **The Alumni Golf Tournament**
4th annual, at Knollwood Golf Course
- **A Hike along the Niagara Escarpment**
led by Ms. Jennifer Chiang, biology professor, with points of interest for both alumni and their children;
- **General Interest Lecture/Discussion**
led by Redeemer faculty/staff member; topic to be announced
- **Barbeque Dinner in front Quad**
informal, lots of time to mingle
- **Boiler Room Suite by Rex Deverell**
inaugural production of Dry Bones Theatre, a Redeemer alumni theatre troupe

More details, and registration materials, will accompany the June issue of *Images*. We look forward to seeing you back on campus in September!

IMAGES

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Alumni Board and Student Senate do lunch

After its March 14 meeting, the Alumni Board was invited to have lunch with members of this year's Student Senate. It was an informative time for both the Board and for Senate—alumni got to hear what was going at Redeemer from the students' perspective, and senators were able to hear about what alumni are doing for the college. Senate president Jason Zuidema said, "It is good for students to see the work that alumni do. We see that our connection with Redeemer will not be ending when we graduate."

Joy Miedema, President of the Alumni Board also appreciated the opportunity to spend some time talking with student leaders. "It is neat to hear how Senate has expanded its role and its programs and how senators strive to use their gifts to glorify God and to better Redeemer College."

Senate and the Board hope to get together more frequently next year in order to share ideas and concerns, and to identify areas where they might be able to work together.



Senator Darryl Beck (98) (centre) enjoys lunch with Alumni Board Members Mark Mantel (89) (left) and Deanna van Dijk (91) (right).

New alumni career network program launched

Think back to your time as a Redeemer student when you were trying to decide what you were going to do for a career. Would it have been helpful to talk with alumni working in those careers that interested you?

As alumni, you can be an important communication link between the world of work and the campus community. Faculty and other student service workers help in advising students about life and career concerns, but you too can play a vital role in this process by sharing your expertise and knowledge about work and careers. The Alumni Board and the college's Career and Placement Service are hoping to tap into that wealth of alumni experiences and resources to benefit current students as they search for career

direction.

The *Alumni Career Network* will provide a way for you to share your knowledge with Redeemer students. Information about alumni and their work will be published in a booklet and grouped according to majors offered at Redeemer. Students who are interested in a particular career field can then connect with alumni in that vocation and arrange to meet. The Career and Placement Office at Redeemer will supply Redeemer students with examples of questions which may be helpful when they meet with alumni. It will be up to the student to make and (if appropriate) maintain contact.

Being established in a career, you are in a good position to keep the College community

informed about changes in the marketplace. You are the ones who have the practical knowledge about the training and skills necessary for landing a job, and what the job availability is like in your field. And because you know the College, you can share how your Redeemer education has served you, discussing with students ways they might prepare for a career in your field. Your time in the "real" work world equips you to guide students and provide reality checks when necessary.

Be part of the Alumni Career Network by completing the form on this page and returning it to John Krueger, Career and Placement Coordinator at Redeemer College. If you have any questions, please contact John at (905) 648-2131, Ext. 299, or via e-mail: jkruege@redeemer.on.ca.

Yes! I Want to be part of the ALUMNI CAREER NETWORK!

Name: _____

Address: _____

street city prov. postal code

Telephone: _____

home number work number

Current Employer: _____

Address: _____

street city prov. postal code

Job Title: _____ No. of yrs. in position _____

Redeemer Graduation Year: _____ Majors: _____

Strategic plan

...continued from page 1

seeing first hand the support that exists for Redeemer in so many different ways. It has also been rewarding to see the expanding role that alumni are taking in the college's future. Joy notes just how critical that alumni role will be: "As the original support community that has built and sustained Redeemer College over the years becomes smaller and less active, it is the alumni—those of us who have benefited most directly from this place—who are going to have to step up and take responsibility for the institution. Our Redeemer education has given us the skills to be leaders, and instilled in us the importance of service. I pray, that with God's strength, we will take up this calling."

Goal announced for annual appeal

BY GARY MIEDEMA (93)

Last year, the Redeemer College Alumni Association launched its first fund raising campaign, the Alumni Annual Appeal. In its inaugural year, the Appeal received strong support from alumni, who gave almost \$4000 towards the purchase of two new computers and a printer for the library. For that, the Alumni Board and Redeemer College owe you thanks.

Now it is time to do it again. The Alumni Board, on behalf of all Redeemer alumni, has committed itself to putting forth one particular project each year for alumni support. The Alumni Annual Appeal, which replaces the Spring Appeal letter



that alumni would otherwise receive, raises funds for a specific project that has immediate benefit for both current students and the College community as a whole.

This year, the Alumni Board considered supporting a number of different ideas which were solicited from staff, faculty and students. In the end, we decided to ask alumni to help make improvements to the Front Foyer, or Main Lobby, of the College. At the centre of the building, in front of the cafeteria and the stairs, the foyer is a natural meeting place for the College community, and hosts a number of different activities through the year.

You might recall the major announcements made in that space. You may also have enjoyed receptions after musical and theatre events held

in the area. Newer developments, such as "Round Table" discussions, also take place in the Front Foyer, as do receptions for College guests, and registrations for many off-campus conferences. Redeemer students use the space regularly for coffee houses, "Activity Period" events sponsored by Senate or Student Life, or just to hang out.

The 1998 Alumni Annual Appeal plans to fund two major improvements to the Front Foyer: 1) a permanently mounted sound system; and 2) a large, lighted display case.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a brochure that provides more detail on this project, and asks you for your support. Please respond generously to this year's Alumni Annual Appeal. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Alumni Office at Redeemer by letter, phone or e-mail (see front page for addresses).

Alumni choir set for May concert

BY ROB JANSSENS (92; B.C.Ed 93)

One of the best ways of maintaining contact with Redeemer as alumni is by continuing to pursue an interest or ability you cultivated during your years of study. For the past four years, a group of former Concert Choir members have done just that as the Alumni Choir.

The Alumni Choir had its informal beginnings in 1995. The repertoire and the location of concerts has varied with the number of participants and the schedules of those involved. That

first year, a few former members of the Concert Choir sang for a worship service at First Christian Reformed Church in Hamilton. In 1996, the Alumni Choir sang with the Concert Choir at Redeemer, performing sections of Handel's *Messiah* for an Easter concert. Last year, the choir was part of a memorable performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* at Centenary United Church in downtown Hamilton.

This year, alumni choir members themselves have taken over the organization of the choir. Previously, Dr. Chris Teeuwsen and his wife Rebecca had taken the lead in getting things going, including contacting the singers. This year, however, a committee consisting of Mike and Michelle Hogeterp (Herrewynen, 92), Heleen Krscyki (Wolfert, 90), Mark Luimes (91), and Christy Baker (Koning, 92) has done most of that work. Though the choir will ultimately be directed by Teeuwsen, the "tail will wag the dog" as the committee--the Redeemer College Alumni Choir Association--selected the music and set all the rehearsal dates and times.

The RCACA invited everyone who has ever sung in the Concert Choir to participate in the Alumni Choir. The process has not been without its growing pains--attendance at rehearsals has been inconsistent, and there was some confusion with some of the mailings. Perhaps these are symptoms of a young alumni base which has other business on weekends and finds it difficult to commit to something months in advance. But for those who have participated in the Alumni Choir, it has been a worthwhile and rewarding endeavour.

Nominees Needed for Alumni Board

The Redeemer College Alumni Board of Directors is an elected body of 12 alumni which guides the activities of the Alumni Association and enhances the relationship between the college and alumni. The Board is also the alumni's voice in the Redeemer College community, having a seat on the Board of Governors and Academic Council.

A number of Board members will have completed their term of service to the Board this September, and the Board is seeking nominations to fill these vacancies. Any alumni of Redeemer College are eligible to serve as a Member at Large, and any graduate of Redeemer may run for President of the Board.

The Board meets four times per year, and there is usually a small amount of committee work as well. The Board is involved in a wide range of activities, from social activities, to long-range planning, to fundraising. It can be a very enjoyable and rewarding way to contribute to the college.

If you would like some more information, please contact any member of the Alumni Board, or Tim Wolfert in the Alumni Office at Redeemer (see page 1 for address and phone number). Nominations, including self-nominations (don't be shy!), should be directed to the Alumni Office by June 5, 1998.

REDEEMER COLLEGE
ALUMNI

Rejoice!

**REDEEMER COLLEGE
ALUMNI CHOIR**
in concert
Directed by Dr. Christiaan Teeuwsen
with Fred de Haan, pianist

*Works by Handel, Fauré,
Brahms, Lojowski and more!*

Friday, May 22, 1998 - 8 p.m.
Redeemer College Auditorium
Free Admission

PERSONAL TOUCH

► **Ben (93) and Melanie (Beck, 93) Westerveld** rejoice in the birth of their son Asher William (an American, eh?), born on October 1, 1997, a little brother to Nadine. Ben continues his studies for minister of the Word at Westminster Theological Seminary (Philadelphia) while Melanie teaches piano lessons. They live at 651 Brooke Rd. P42, Glenside, PA 19038. (215) 572-9532.

► **Marlene De Boer (x84)** has entered the "wild" side of life! After being employed as a Registered Veterinary Technician in a mixed veterinary practice for 10-1/2 years, she is now "monkeying" around at the African Lion Safari. The long summer hours don't allow much time for "lion" around and she would love to hear from any of the 'pioneers.' She lives at 1817 Regional Road 97, RR #6, Cambridge, ON N1R 5S7. (519) 622-6722.

► **Harriette (VanDorp, 93) Mostert** and her husband Raymond are grateful for their first child received from the Lord. Matthias Arend was born on March 17, 1998. Raymond continues to work in the family greenhouse business, and Harriette is happy at home caring for Matthias.

► **Tania Berndt (BCEd 97)** has recently switched teaching positions and is now teaching French to all grades at Cedarbrook Christian School in Bracebridge—and loving it! She is also now a homeowner, with a house right on the Muskoka River. She lives at 315 Wilsons Falls Rd., Bracebridge, ON P1L 1L7. (705) 645-1287.

► **Helena Dryfhout-Clark (x89)** achieved her BSc from the University of Guelph and has since been working at the Atmospheric Environment Service doing air quality research, as well as working on her MSc from York University in atmospheric chemistry. This is also where she met her husband, Paul Clark, who is a military electrician. Together they live in Borden, Ontario. She can be reached at helena.dryfhout-clark@ec.gc.ca

► **Tim Grootenboer (94)** spent 1997 attending the University of Wollongong in New South Wales, Australia in the Graduate Diploma in Education Program, studying to be a secondary school teacher, Science method. Smitten by a local Australian and fellow teacher-in-training (Catherine), Tim has decided to stay on in Australia and has gained a teaching position for 1998 at Trinity Grammar School in Summer Hill, a suburb of Sydney. Tim is currently very busy teaching Year 8, 9 and 10 science and Year 11 and 12 biology, coaching Year 7 basketball and Year 8 soccer, tutoring a Year 10 house group and running the school recycling program. His address is: 40 Heighway Ave., CROYDON, NSW, Australia, 2132. Phone: 01-61-2-9798-7706. E-mail: tgrootenboer@trinity.nsw.edu.au

► **Benjamin (92) and Lori (88) Ponsen** live at Apt. 1, 35555 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546, USA. Two weeks before moving there, and Ben beginning his studies at Calvin Seminary, Lori gave birth to their third daughter, Rachael (Aug. 4, 97). Her sisters, Harmony, 5, and Fayth, 2, are having a great time at home helping their mother take care of "baby." Their phone number is (616) 285-5836, e-mail: bponse37@calvin.edu

► **Rick (97) and Marianne (VanderWal 94) Bruinsma** now live at 11 Millward Ave., St. Catharines, ON, L2N 1P1. (905) 935-1018.

► **Jeff (94) and Pat Hoogendoorn** brought home their newly adopted daughter, Kathleen Alix, from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, after spending their first Christmas together there. Many thanks to Helen Plaisier of the French department—Kathleen parle seul le français! Kathleen est née le 24 janvier 1996. The Hoogendoorns live at 388 Selica Rd., Victoria, BC, V9B 4X2.

NEXT ISSUE OF IMAGES WILL INCLUDE THE FINAL EDITION OF REDEEMER REFLECTIONS
WATCH FOR IT IN JUNE!



Andrea Te Brake enjoys some of the goodies at the Alumni Dessert Social for the Class of 1998. The informal reception for this year's graduands gave the Alumni Board a chance to meet the graduating students and introduce them to the Alumni Association. The graduands also received a coupon good for a discount to the spring mainstage drama production, Stranger In The Land.

Play the name game for Redeemer's dorms

Approval has been given to name the different "blocks" of residences and apartments that constitute the college's on-campus housing. A committee with representation from the student body, alumni, staff, faculty and board will select submissions from the Redeemer community and submit nominations for final approval. Alumni and members of the support community are also invited to submit suggestions. This is your chance to make (Redeemer) history!

Guidelines: Eight housing blocks need

names. Submissions should come in sets that cover those eight but also allow for future expansion. Examples of such sets might include those with Biblical themes, heroes of the faith and geographical terms or places. The committee has decided *not* to recommend names of living people involved in the history of the college.

Procedure/Deadline: Submissions should be addressed to the attention of Community and Media Relations at the college address and must be received by September 30, 1998.



NEWS OF INTEREST

Name _____ Class _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Do you want your address published? ☐ Yes ☐ No

News of Interest _____
